THE HISTORIC ENIGMA

ROSSLYN CHAPEL

1

1 The St. Clair Family Engrailed Cross.

2 One of the many Medieval Angels.

3 William St. Clair portrayed holding Robert the Bruces' heart.

4 The fallen Angel, Lucifer.

2

3

5 Lovers turning away from the Devil and towards Righteousness.

6 Righteousness.

7 The Green Man, Paganistic symbol.

8 Carvings with Masonic symbolism

9

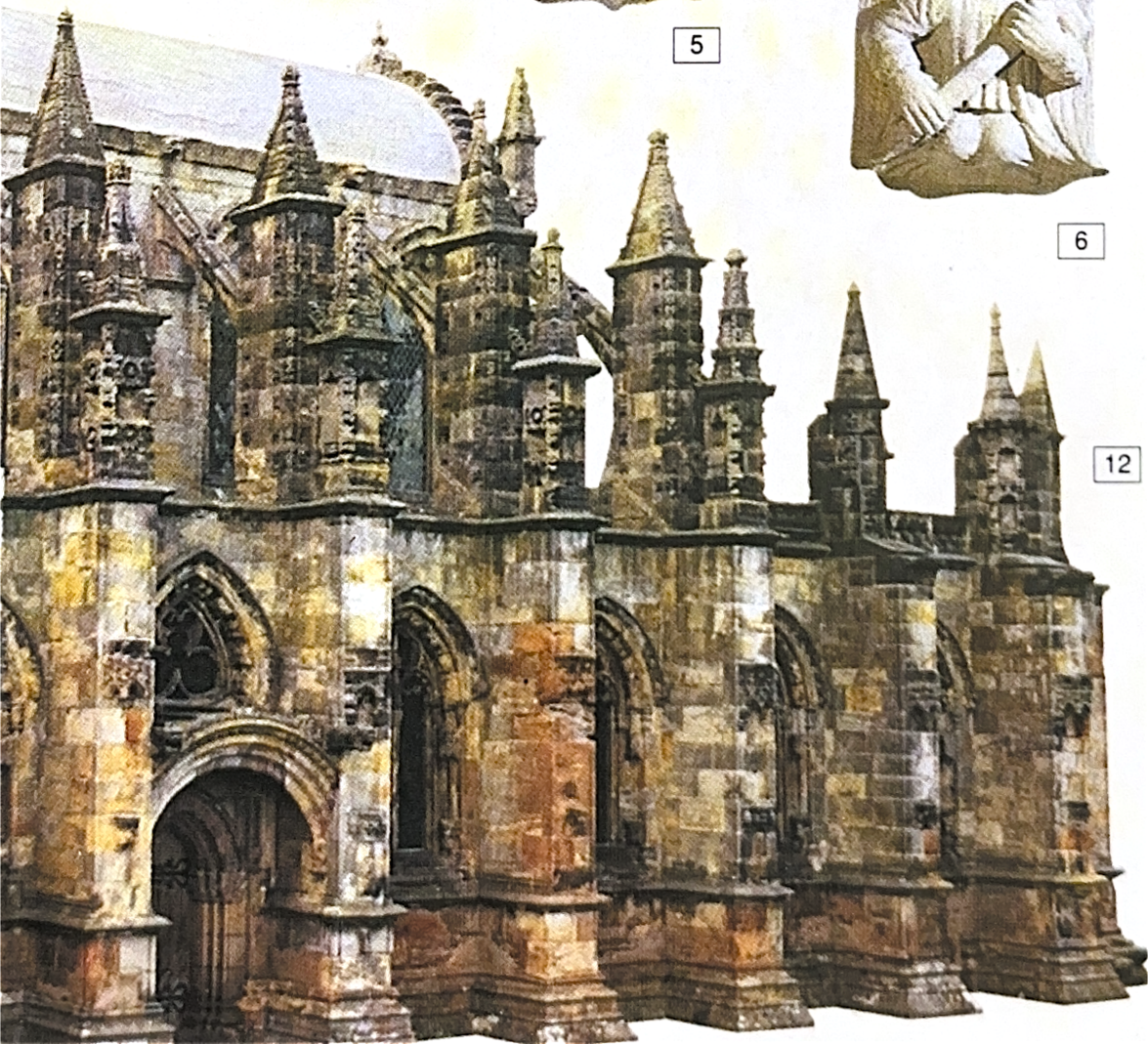
ROSSLYN CHAPEL is unique and famed world wide for the beauty of its carvings and for the aura of mystery and magic that surrounds it.

Built in 1446 by William St. Clair, third and last Prince of Orkney, Rosslyn Chapel conforms neither to contemporary architecture nor to any fashion. Rich in ornament, its exact place in the creation of mankind still remains difficult to estimate. The carvings themselves, including the famous "Apprentice Pillar", are endless in variety and full of symbolism. Many of the Biblical stories are portrayed, and there are frequent references for those interested in

4

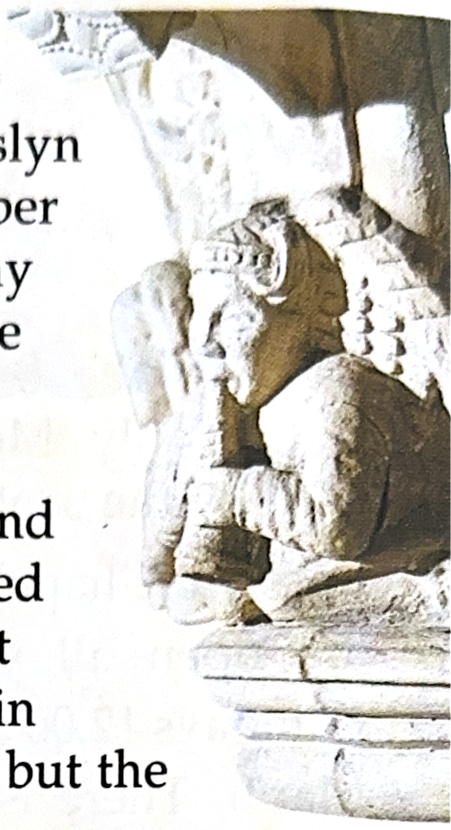
5

6



12

the Knights Templar and Freemasonary, equally there are Pagan symbols and Rosslyn Chapel has the largest number of "Green Men" found in any Medieval building. There are also carvings of plants from the New World which pre-date the discovery of that land by Columbus by one hundred years. There is no doubt that Rosslyn Chapel has a place in history, not just of Scotland, but the wider world.



11

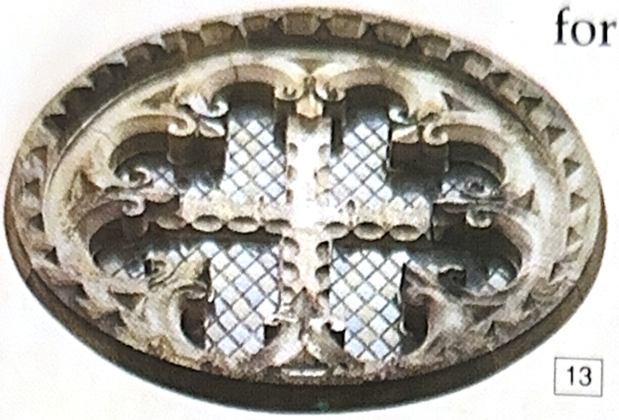
Rosslyn Chapel stands on the edge of the steeply wooded Esk Valley. The narrow rocky gorge below with its fast flowing water gives Rosslyn its name. The richly wooded Rosslyn Glen offers pleasant walks and magnificent views of Rosslyn Castle. The Chapel has been a place of pilgrimage over the centuries and has much to delight, intrigue and inspire todays visitors. The Chapel is used

10

7

8

9



13

for weekly services, can be booked for Weddings and is a venue for Musical Evenings. Rosslyn Chapel is the only Medieval building regularly used by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Rosslyn Chapel, its Shop and Tea Room are open all year 10.00 am to 5.00 pm (Sundays 12.00 am to 4.45 pm (4.00 pm Nov.-Mar.)). There is an admission charge with discounts for groups over 20. Guides are available, and visits outwith the opening hours can be arranged.

10 The Apprentice Pillar.

11 One of the many Medieval Musicians.

12 Rosslyn Chapel.

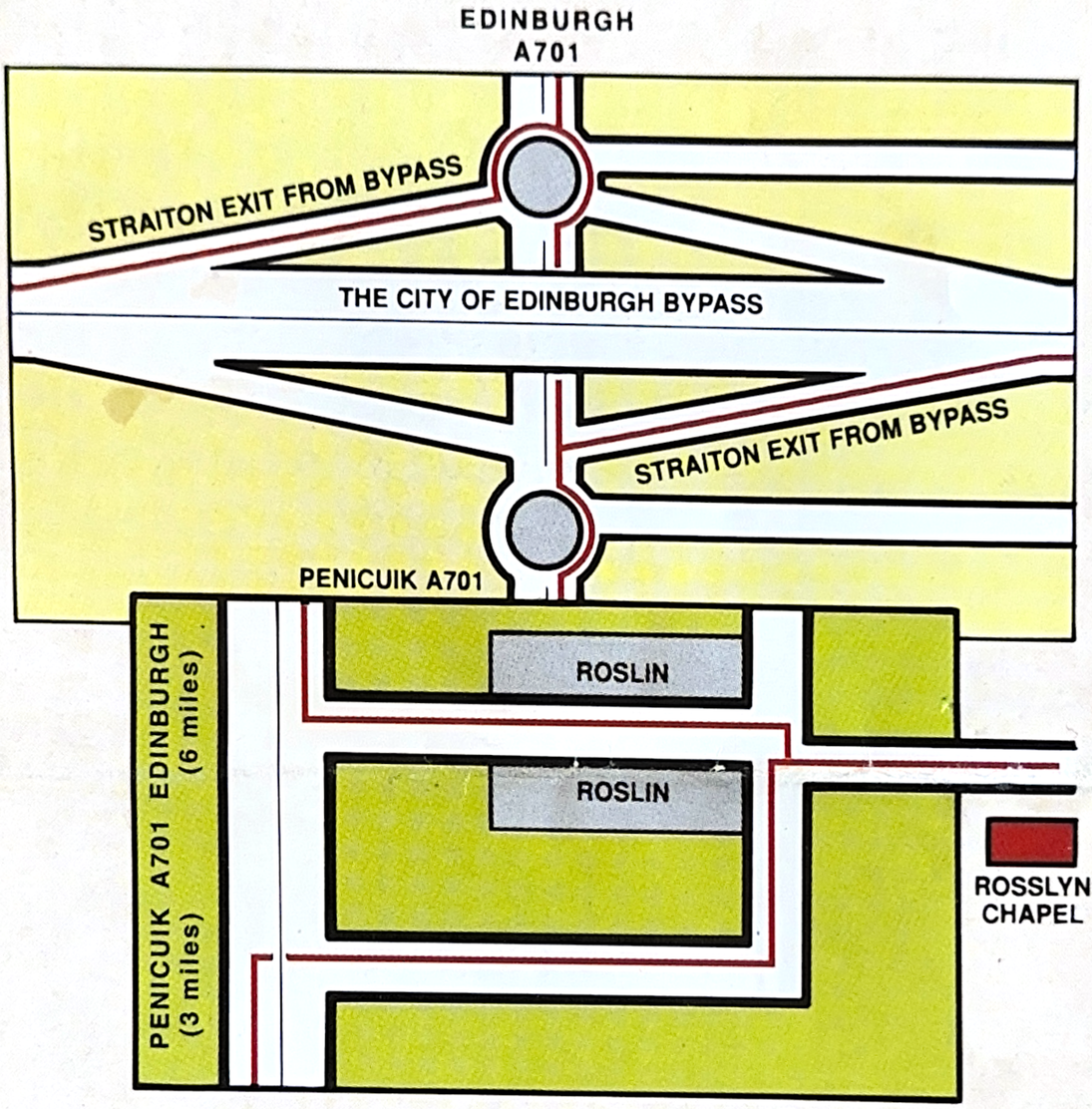
13 The West Window.

14 Templar Tombstone.

THE ROSSLYN ASSOCIATION

Become an Associate of the Chapel. Annual membership £15 (£25 family) gives discounted entry to Chapel and events plus a Newsletter. To join the Association send the membership fee to:

RCA, Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9PU, Scotland.



14

DESIGN BY GRAFFITOS, PHOTOGRAPHY BY N. J. RUSSELL

For further information on Rosslyn contact us at:

Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, Midlothian, EH25 9PU, Scotland

Phone: 0131-440 2159 Fax: 0131-440 1979

e.mail.Rosslynch@aol.com

www.ROSSLYNCHAPEL.org.uk